

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6422

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 00918

PASS AMBASSADOR CUTLER

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, CA
SUBJECT: EXTAFF MINISTER JAMIESON ON CUTLER-CADIEUX TALKS

1. REVIEWED MARITIME BOUNDARY/RESOURCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAMIESON FEBRUARY 22. I NOTED THAT THERE APPEARED STILL TO BE A SIGNIFICANT GAP BETWEEN THE TWO POSITIONS (JUST HOW BIG WOULD BE APPARENT AFTER AMBASSADOR CUTLER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH EAST AND WEST COAST INTERESTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS), AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT RESTRICTIONS AND COUNTER RESTRICTIONS (INCLUDING PROBABLY ACTION BY U.S. FISHERMEN TO LIMIT IMPORTS OF CANADIAN FISH) IN THE EVENT THE NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT SUCCEED.

2. JAMIESON AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT, SAYING THAT HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING "DISAPPOINTING" REPORTS FROM CADIEUX. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT THINK THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE DO IF THE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. IF THE TWO NEGOTIATORS CANNOT AGREE, JAMIESON WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A
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HAND IN THE DISCUSSIONS HIMSELF. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY VANCE IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK THAT "SOME POLITICAL WILL" MAY BE NECESSARY TO PUT THE EXERCISE ACROSS. JAMIESON WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE TWO NEGOTIATORS WHEN THEY ARE IN OTTAWA.

3. REGARDING THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS ON THE

NEGOTIATIONS, JAMIESON SAID THAT A FAILURE WOULD BE A NET MINUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, BUT "A CONTAINABLE ONE." ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATION AFTER THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS, JAMIESON SAID HE DIDN'T THINK SO.

4. COMMENT: JAMIESON HAS ALL ALONG BEEN MORE SANGUINE ABOUT NEGOTIATING THE MARITIME PROBLEMS THAN HAVE HIS OFFICIALS. AS A POLITICIAN, HE HAS AN INSTINCTIVE WARINESS ABOUT THE FALL-OUT OF A NON-CONTROLLABLE PROCESS OF THIRD PARTY SETTLEMENT OR ARBITRATION. IN THE PAST WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY TRANSLATING JAMIESON'S UPBEAT APPROACH INTO CONCRETE INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS REPRESENTATIVES. THUS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF JAMIESON IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT SOME POINT IN MARCH MIGHT WELL BE DESIRABLE. ENDERS

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